**LUNCH RUSH**
GET INTO PLAYOFF SPIRIT WITH HAT-TRICK PIZZA {page 16}

# DROPOUT
## BERRY NIXES BROADWAY DEBUT
DISH {page 10}

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Tuesday, April 19, 2011
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News worth sharing.

# Locals hope to clean up with Canuck sweep

### Vancouver playoff run sparks boom for broom company

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

A local broom company is brushing up on its team spirit by converting hockey stick handles into floor brooms just in time for a possible Game 4 sweep tonight by the Vancouver Canucks.

"We're always looking for new things that we can create (into) brooms to keep things fresh and fun," said Jori Bojm, co-owner of Granville Island Broom Co. "We're also big hockey fans so we thought that attaching a broom to a hockey stick would be really good."

The Vancouver Canucks lead the best-of-seven series 3-0 and are looking to sweep the defending Stanley Cup champion Blackhawks tonight in Chicago.

"We could also practise our slapshots on the floor," Bojm added. "People were coming in with different puns about the Canucks sweeping (the series) so we thought that it would be fun to play off of that."

Artisans Mary Schwieger, Sarah Schwieger and Bojm have already created 10 to 15 limited-edition hockey stick brooms retailing at $75 and will be making more in the next couple of days.

The brooms, which are made from high-quality broomcorn from the Torreon region of Mexico, will be sold throughout the playoffs or while supplies last.

"The sticks we've gotten from friends ... Each one kind of has their own little story of them scoring a goal with it, so we promised we'd give them a good home and pass them on."

Like other Canucks fans, Bojm wants the home team to beat the competition but she doesn't want to say it out loud.

"I guess I'm a little superstitious so I'm keeping my mouth shut, but I'm going to secretly hope in my mind that they do go all the way. I think the city is really ready for a good party."

More Canucks coverage {page 17}

*For more news, visit metronews.ca/vancouver*

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/FOR METRO

▶ Jori Bojm, co-owner of Granville Island Broom Co., shows off one of the limited-edition hockey stick brooms yesterday to show support for the Vancouver Canucks' possible sweep of the series against the Chicago Blackhawks.

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# New facility a step forward for Downtown Eastside

**Ribbon-cutting ceremony marks opening of 70,000-square-foot building Shelter, housing, meals, recovery, training under one roof**

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to the social, homelessness, mental health and addictions issues that are so prevalent in Vancouver.

But now that the Union Gospel Mission's new $29-million, 70,000-square-foot building at 601 Cordova St. is officially open, people seeking help have a place to go where they can access a continuum of care under one roof.

"It's the historic day. This is probably the biggest single project in the UGM's 71-year history," said UGM president Bill Mollard. "This vision started about eight years ago and now the real work can begin."

The drop-in facility has 82 shelter beds, 37 studio apartments and 64 supported-recovery apartments.

It also includes a kitchen, dining room, classrooms and meeting spaces.

"It's about serving the person and giving them the resources they need to really make a change in their life," said Mollard. "We really want to provide for somebody from needing a meal all the way to taking their place in society."

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

▶ Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson and recovered addict Carl Martin, now an employee at Union Gospel Mission, tour the UGM's new Downtown Eastside building yesterday.

## Walking the talk

Carl Martin knows what it means to have a range of services available when they're most needed.

The 48-year-old spent 11 years going to the Union Gospel Mission before enrolling in their drug recovery program and getting clean last year.

Now he works for the UGM as a truck driver and hopes a future in outreach work is in the cards.

"There is so much good that will be done in this building," said Martin of the UGM's new Cordova Street facility. "At first you come in for food ... then for a place to sleep and eventually you decide you want recovery. And after, they can help you with education in employment. It's fantastic to have everything in one building." MATT KIELTYKA

1 news

**In tomorrow's Metro: The five federal leaders answer questions from our readers on their plans for Canada's largest cities.**

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beatymuseum.ubc.ca

## News in brief

### No jail time for woman who tossed baby in dumpster

**PROBATION.** A 22-year-old woman who dropped the body of her newborn baby in a dumpster in Richmond two years ago won't spend any time in jail.

A provincial court judge has given Courtny Taylor six months of house arrest and two years' probation, plus 50 hours of community service.

Taylor pleaded guilty in December to disposing the body after giving birth in her boyfriend's bathroom. Police spent three days searching the Burns Bog landfill in Delta before the body was found. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

### BCCLA wants protest bylaw put on hold

**LIBERTIES.** The B.C. Civil Liberties Association is urging Vancouver to put the brakes on a bylaw to regulate protest structures.

The BCCLA wants the city to apply for an extension beyond today's court-mandated deadline rather than rush through imperfect legislation.

**METRO**

### Mall brawl may lead to charges for teens

**YOUTUBE.** Two girls, aged 13 and 14, may be facing assault charges after a video of five females brawling outside Nanaimo Mall surfaced on YouTube. The video has since been removed.

**METRO**

# Dix ready to lead NDP to victory

## Campaign plan involves defeating the HST in coming referendum

**PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS**
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

The B.C. NDP is "united and determined" to win the next election and will provide more serious ideas and substance than the governing Liberals, newly crowned opposition leader Adrian Dix announced yesterday prior to the party's caucus meeting.

"It's not about me putting on a Canucks shirt — even though I love the Canucks and I love sports," said Dix, who pulled off a third-ballot victory Sunday over Mike Farnworth.

"It's about us taking a serious approach to serious issues and I think people will like that."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/FOR METRO

▶ Adrian Dix discusses his next steps as the newly elected B.C. NDP leader yesterday at BCIT's downtown campus before the party's first caucus meeting.

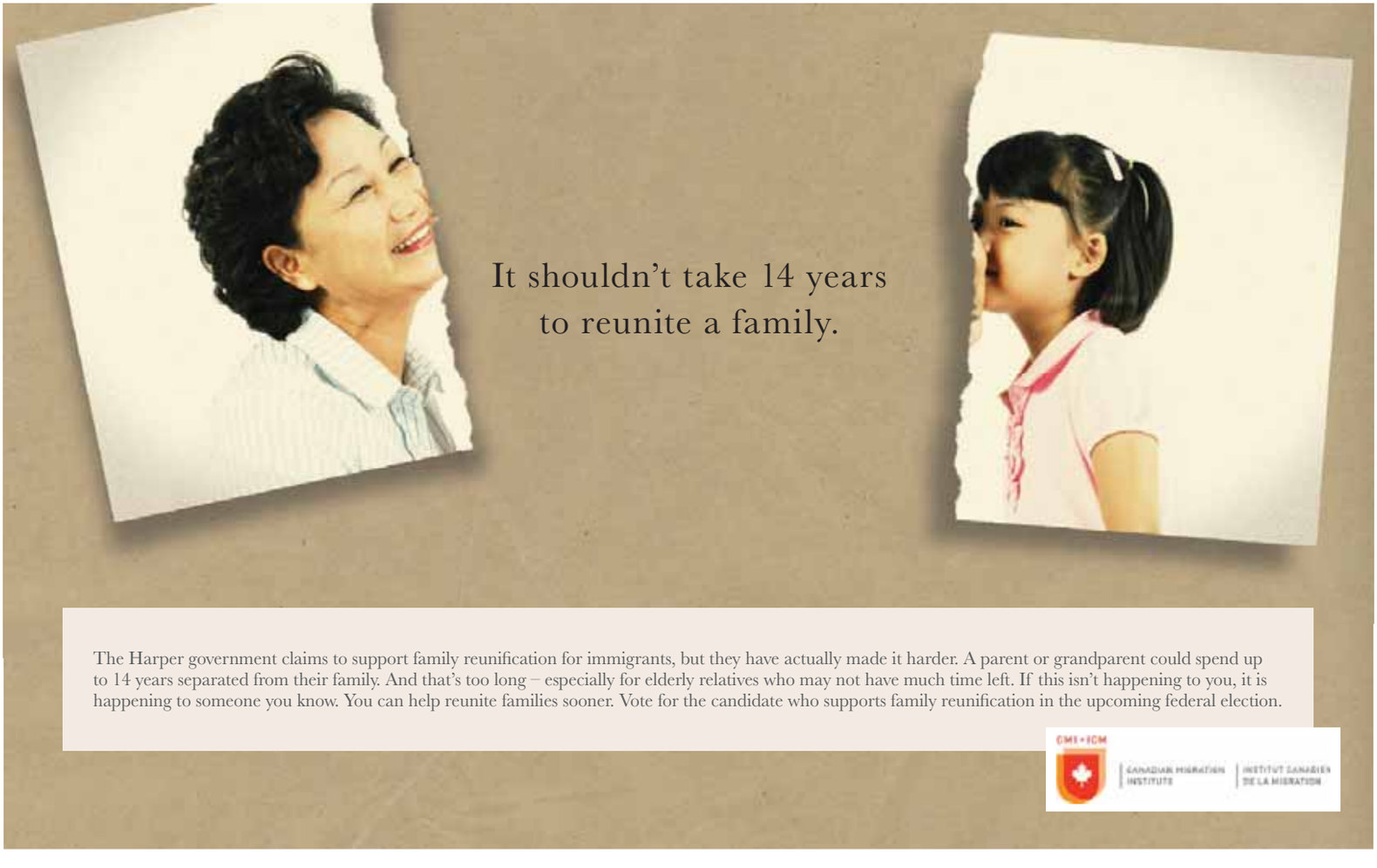
Dix said his campaign will focus on creating jobs, improving long-term care standards for seniors, rolling back long-term care fees and working with teachers to make classrooms better.

He also said he will campaign hard to defeat the HST in the coming referendum.

"I'll be working hard ... to ensure that the people of British Columbia are not fooled again by the B.C. Liberal government," Dix said. "I expect a major attempt by the government to try to convince people that what's bad for them is good for them."

When asked about being viewed as too left leaning, the Vancouver-Kingsway MLA said it's a positive thing when people think you're serious about issues that matter.

"Issues such as children and care, I'm serious about," Dix said.


It shouldn't take 14 years
to reunite a family.
The Harper government claims to support family reunification for immigrants, but they have actually made it harder. A parent or grandparent could spend up to 14 years separated from their family. And that's too long – especially for elderly relatives who may not have much time left. If this isn't happening to you, it is happening to someone you know. You can help reunite families sooner. Vote for the candidate who supports family reunification in the upcoming federal election.
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CHRIS HONDROS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Foreign workers from Nigeria, Ghana, and other African countries pile in the back of a truck with their belongings trying to leave the besieged city of Misrata.

# Fleeing Libya under fire

## Foreign workers, Libyans risking hostilities to leave war-torn country Gadhafi promises UN access

Britain said it would provide about two million pounds ($3.1 million) to fund efforts to evacuate about 5,000 foreign workers stranded and under fire in the besieged western Libyan city of Misrata.

The International Organization for Migration already ferried foreign nationals out of Misrata by boat to the opposition-held eastern city of Benghazi.

About 870 foreign migrant workers — from Ghana, the Philippines and Ukraine — and 100 Libyans were aboard the organization's chartered boat Ionian Spirit that left Misrata early yesterday.

Several women and children, and 23 people suffering war wounds — including a child who had been shot in the face and an amputee — were also aboard, the organization said.

"Thousands of foreign workers have managed to reach the port but find themselves at terrible risk from incoming fire, with no way to get out," said Andrew Mitchell, the U.K.'s International Development Secretary, in a statement. "These evacuations will take them to safety and help reduce the demand in Misrata for the very limited supplies of food, water and medical supplies available."

Meanwhile, Moammar Gadhafi's government has promised the UN access to the besieged rebel city of Misrata, a senior UN official said yesterday, even as Libyan government troops continued to pound opposition enclaves with shells and rockets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THAILAND

## Thai New Year's brings water and flashing?

Thai authorities denounced three teenage girls Monday who danced topless on a Bangkok street during New Year's celebrations — underscoring the tension between Thailand's traditionally modest culture and the country's reputation as a sex capital.

Concern was heightened by the young age of the dancers, who were found to be 14, 15 and 16 when they turned themselves in to the police Monday afternoon.

The incident occurred Friday, on the last day of the New Year's water festival known as Songkran, not far from the world-famous Patpong Road red-light district, where live sex shows can be seen for the price of a drink and offers of sexual services to passersby are only thinly veiled.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Guy's good deed for day

Ron Guy, a bus driver in Ohio, says he never thought for a second about keeping $1,200 he spotted on a seat after finishing his route.

Guy tells The Blade newspaper of Toledo he started counting until he got to a thousand. That's when he radioed his dispatcher to report what he had found.

It turns out the money belonged to a woman with a developmental disability. She had just cashed her monthly disability check.

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# North of 60 heats up as parties dish it out

## Better health and new roads promised in Yellowknife

Election 2011

Various feel-good campaign promises — a new highway, more doctors and nurses, high-speed rail — did little to mask an election that is turning increasingly bitter.

It was back to the future on the election trail yesterday in Yellowknife, where Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff crossed paths — and campaign swords.

Ignatieff reminded Canadians of six decades of universal medicare while promoting better health care in Northern Canada.

Harper's promise to complete the 140-kilometre Dempster Highway joining Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk, to which Ottawa will contribute $150 million, was bookended by warnings about the perils awaiting Canada if voters fail to give Conservatives a majority.

Gilles Duceppe imploring voters to support his Bloc Québécois to stop a Conservative majority is proof, says Harper, that only a majority government can prevent the next sovereignty referendum.

The Conservatives are also lashing out at the Liberals for new attack ads that target Harper on healthcare funding and his commitment to the Canada Health Act. The Liberals put words in Harper's mouth that in fact came from his former boss at the National Citizens Coalition.

Ignatieff claimed the Conservative party has been attacking him for "five years" with out-of-context quotes and character assassination.

"It's getting tight. The heat's on. They can dish it out but they can't take it," Ignatieff said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff misses the grill as he flips caribou burgers while attending a barbecue yesterday on a campaign stop in Yellowknife.

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metro life panel

# No relief in sight at the pumps

## Expect gas prices to soar even higher once summer driving season gets underway next month

Canadians could soon be filling up their gas tanks for as much as $1.40 per litre, Gasbuddy.com says.

The price-tracking website pegs the current Canadian average price at $1.28 per litre. But as motorists begin to take to the road after the Victoria Day long weekend, demand will pick up and drive up the price, says Jason Toews, co-founder of Gasbuddy.com.

About 70 per cent of the price of a litre of gasoline comes from the cost of its main ingredient, crude oil. Crude has been trading at pre-recession levels as unrest in Middle East oil-producing countries continues to stoke supply fears.

**Market moment**

| TSX | Dollar |
|---|---|
| – 96.79 (13,702.33) | – 0.45¢ (103.71¢ US) |
| **Oil** | **Natural gas 1,000 cu ft** |
| – $2.54 US ($107.12 US) | $4.138 US (– 6.6¢ US) |
| | **Gold contracts** |
| | $1,492.90 US (+ $6.90 US) |

SOURCES OF P.M.'S VISTA AVERAGE

"A lot of people say 'We have so much crude oil here in Canada. Why don't we have cheap gas? Why don't we just sell it to ourselves?' " Toews said.

"These companies who produce the crude oil are looking to maximize their profits. It's not a charity case."

Alberta has the cheapest gas in Canada, at just under $1.17 per litre. British Columbia and Ontario, on the other hand, are hovering at $1.32 per litre. In Newfoundland, drivers are filling up for $1.37 per litre.

It's worthwhile to shop around for the cheapest gas in your city, Toews said. For instance, the lowest price reported in Vancouver yesterday morning was $1.27 and the highest was nearly $1.39. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Home Depot rethinking dog policy

The home chain may deny entry to dogs after a greeter was bitten at an outlet in Gloucester, an Ottawa suburb. Public-relations manager Tiziana Baccega said dogs are allowed in stores "as long as they're under control by their owner,"

but Home Depot is reviewing the policy.

There was a "No Dogs" sign at the Gloucester store but it was never enforced, said greeter Anne Riel, who lost the tip of her nose when a Shih Tzu attacked her. JESSICA SMITH

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

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She says ...

**JESSICA NAPIER**

# SIMPLY REDHEADS

**Rumour has it that women tend to favour men of the tall, dark and handsome variety.**

I, on the other hand, have a thing for redheads. Yes, that's right, I'm not afraid to admit that I would take freckle-faced Ron Weasly over Harry Potter any day of the week. In fact, I've been in a relationship with a ginger-haired man for more than three years — before you cringe, think Prince Harry not Carrot Top.

Redheads elicit passionate reactions; they are both demonized and fetishized by the plain-haired majority. Whether strawberry blond, burnt orange or deep burgundy it seems people have a pretty definite opinion when it comes to redheads.

Throughout history, redheads have been persecuted and stereotyped as angry, untrustworthy and, occasionally, satanic. Mythology links red hair to witchcraft and vampires, while Biblical bad guys Judas Iscariot, Eve (as in Adam and ...) and Mary Magdalene are frequently depicted as redheads.

Today, natural redheads account for less than four per cent of the world's population and less than two per cent in North America. There are plenty of stereotypes surrounding this genetic minority. Red-haired adults are assumed to be hot tempered, promiscuous and unpredictable (here's looking at you Lindsay Lohan) while young gingers are stigmatized as mischievous devil children, ostracized and mercilessly taunted for their pallor and fiery hair.

Yes, growing up ginger certainly isn't easy. In 2008, the RCMP launched an investigation after a 14-year-old boy started a "Kick a Ginger" Facebook group encouraging kids to terrorize crimson-haired classmates. The group, which nearly 5,000 people joined, was allegedly inspired by the now infamous "Ginger Kids" episode of South Park in which a character describes redheads as "disgusting, inhuman, soulless and inherently dumb."

Not only the victims of emotional and physical abuse, redheads also have a number of physiological shortcomings. Unique pigmentation makes their skin more susceptible to sunburn, wrinkles and skin cancer.

Given all of these genetic disadvantages it's perhaps unsurprising that rumours of redhead endangerment have started circulating. Redhead survivalists panicked after a not-so-scientific study warned that redheads might face extinction as early as 2060. In reality, while occurrences of red hair may be on the decline, there is no real evidence to suggest that our ginger friends will die out any time soon.

There is perhaps no hair colour more polarizing than red, but as far as I'm concerned the only problem with redheads is there aren't enough of them.

*Read more of Jessica Napier's columns at metronews.ca/shesays*

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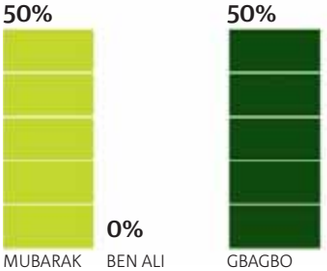
**Which recently unseated head of state would you most like to have a 30-minute Skype conversation with?**




## Local tweets

- **@duanehase:** #gettingitin in the sun once again! #vancouver is the plaace to beeee right now! #lovinglife!!!
- **@RichardTeam:** #vancouver Average price of B.C. home up 15 per cent from last year: The average price of a home in Briti... http://bit.ly/ggBnM4 #yvrre
- **@drumweaver:** i wonder how many sacred shamanic drummers there could be in #vancouver?
- **@SeatownFans:** Chicago Blackhawks' winger Dave Bolland may play in Game 4 ... http://fan.ac/1yOe #NHL #Vancouver
- **@itsgoodtobehere:** Hearing great things about #ImperialIPA from the wknd taste testers. Check out what else we r serving up #beer #Vancouver
- **@SarahMacKay84:** am pretty sure I saw the Canucks carrying brooms with them to practice today. #yvr #Canucks #hockey
- **@flematic:** How about the shower? Is Torres still allowed to hit that? #canucks #yvr

## Worth mentioning

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands.** Hair today, gone tomorrow.

A judge has asked lawyers to shed their wigs next time they appear before her at the International Criminal Court.

A handful of attorneys appeared yesterday in traditional black gowns and white horsehair wigs for a preliminary hearing in a case dealing with violence after Kenya's disputed 2007 presidential election.

Justice Ekaterina Trendafilova paused briefly after the end of the hearing to pass a hair-raising judgment.

"This is not the dress code of this institution," she said.

"In this quite warm weather maybe it will be more convenient to be without wigs," she added with a smile.

It is unusual for lawyers to appear at the International Criminal Court in wigs, but not unheard of. At least three lawyers wore wigs April 8 during the initial appearance of three Kenyan suspects, without Justice Trendafilova issuing any dress code guidelines.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Cartoon by Michael De Adder

WEIRD NEWS

# Coming soon: Dancing With The Politicians

A moonwalking politician might not be the best reason to pay attention to Romanian politics, but the antics seem to be working.

Edmond Talmacean, a 40-year-old Bucharest politician, has inspired national headlines with his Michael Jackson-inspired moonwalk on a television show and his impersonations of the late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. His impersonation of a well-known sports commentator during a serious political debate also stunned other lawmakers into silence.

"Dancing is another kind of political message to appeal to the younger generation, that it is good to have fun ... that you can go to a disco and dance," Talmacean told The Associated Press yesterday.

Party bosses, however, say enough is enough and have ordered him to tone down.

Prime Minister Emil Boc declared the routine was more suited to "showbiz" than politics, while Vasile Blaga of the Democratic Liberal Party said the fringe lawmaker should head over to the TV program Dancing With The Stars.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# YouTube star happy about Glee return

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Singer Charice Pempengco is set to reprise the role of Sunshine Corazon in Glee.

**Fan support helped bring Charice back to hit Fox show Self-confessed 'Gleek' will tackle Eric Carmen's All By Myself in episode**

IAN JOHNSTON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

For viral music sensation Charice Pempengco, appearing on Glee is a bit more than just another singing gig.

"I'm a Gleek," confesses the singer, 18, who goes by the professional name of simply Charice. "So being on the show — it's very exciting. I think it's one of the show's goal — to help teenagers make their dreams come true. It's been amazing."

It's also been a pretty amazing ride for the Philippines-born Charice, whose rose to fame at 13 when YouTube footage of her singing performances became a sensation. Appearances on Ellen and Oprah followed, leading to last fall's first appearance on Glee as the pint-sized diva rival Sunshine Corazon.

Still, despite all that success, it was never a given that'd she'd return to the Glee fold. Charice says the overwhelming support of Glee fans on the internet definitely played a part in her return. "It's one of the reasons I'm back. I've been reading all their comments. Happy to see they're excited."

The singer credits her mom with recognizing her singing talent at a very early age.

"My mother is a vocalist in a band. And she came home to see me singing on the top of the table — Celine Dion's My Heart Will Go On. So she discovered me."

On this week's Glee, Charice will tackle another Dion concert standard — Eric Carmen's All By Myself.

"I was so happy when they gave me that song to sing. I've been singing it forever. I love that song."

Beyond this week's episode, Charice again claims to be in the dark about when and if her character will return for a third time.

"I don't know if she (Sunshine) turns into a spy or starts helping the Glee club. I'm really excited to do more, but I don't know what happens after this. "

Glee airs Tuesdays on Global.

2 scene

## Scene in brief

Michael Cera and Whoopi Goldberg are among the 38 jurors for the 10th annual Tribeca Film Festival. Tribeca announced its jurors yesterday, two days before the New York festival opens. Goldberg and Cera are among the jurors for the world documentary competition.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Video of Royal Family look-alikes dancing down aisle on wedding day goes viral

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# Halle Berry cancels Broadway debut

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES FILE

## Custody fight keeps her out of role in drama

Halle Berry is bowing out of her Broadway debut, The Mountaintop, which was set to open in September, according to the New York Times. Producers of the show say Berry will "not be appearing in the role due to child-custody issues." Berry has been engaged in a bitter custody dispute with ex-partner Gabriel Aubry over their three-year-old daughter, Nahla. The play, which stars Samuel L. Jackson as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the night before his assassination, will open as planned with a new actress in Berry's place. METRO

▶ Halle Berry

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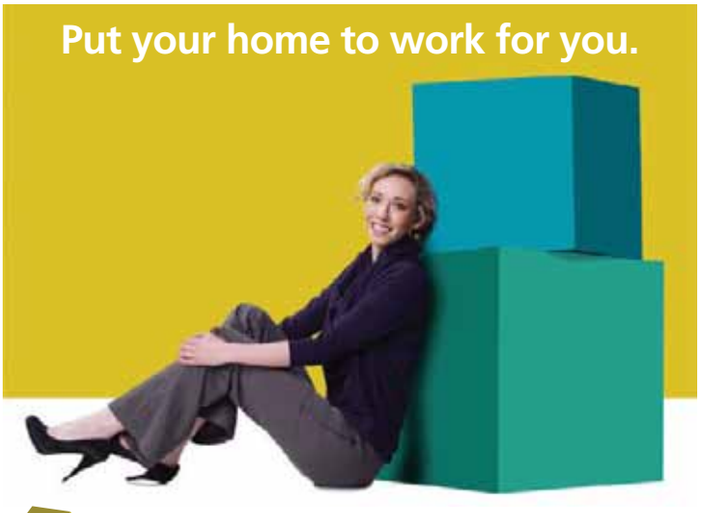

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# Sheen's ex enters rehab

While ex-husband Charlie Sheen tours the country and argues with his former bosses, Brooke Mueller has checked herself back into rehab after an eventful week, according to TMZ.

Mueller reportedly refused to submit to a drug test Friday required to maintain custody of her children with Sheen, two-year-old twins Max and Bob. Her stint in rehab is said to be a precautionary measure in case Sheen's lawyers use her refusal to take a test against her.

METRO

▶ Brooke Mueller

# Lohan could get 3 years

Lindsay Lohan is apparently weighing her legal options, as the actress' lawyers reportedly held a secret meeting last week with the judge and deputy district attorney to discuss her ongoing felony grand theft case, according to Radar Online.

Lohan's lawyer reportedly asked how much time behind bars the Mean Girls star would have to serve if she enters a guilty plea at her preliminary hearing this Friday, but while the judge is said to have disclosed the figure, word of it hasn't leaked. At worst, Lohan could face up to three years in prison.

▶ Lindsay Lohan

METRO

## DUI charges dropped

The Los Angeles district attorney has officially dropped DUI charges against Matt Rutler, Christina Aguilera's boyfriend who was picked up for drunk driving last month, according to TMZ. Investigation found Rutler's blood alcohol was under the legal limit at the time. Aguilera was arrested for public intoxication the night of the incident, though no charges were filed against her either. METRO

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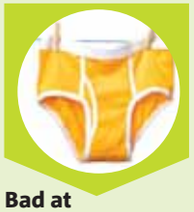
3 life

## Up and down

**GOOD AT**
Robison designed special-effect guitars for the band KISS in the 1970s.



**Bad at**
Robison frequently disappoints or downright annoys other people without realizing it. ● CELIA MILNE

**Some hair smoothing products contain formaldehyde above limits: Health Canada**

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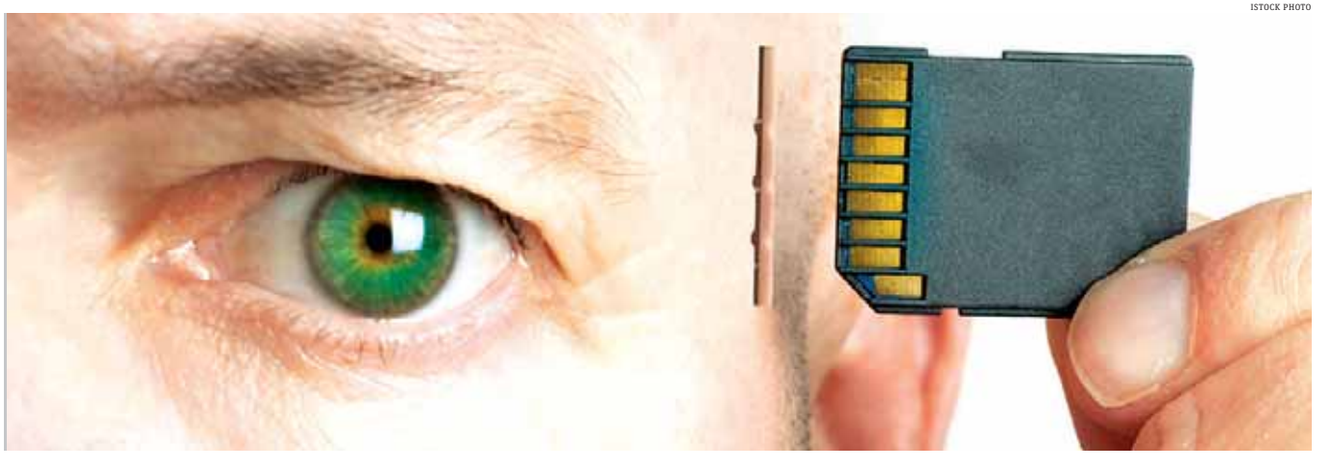


# A 'misfits' guide to life with Asperger's

**Author shares his journey through the world that few can understand**
**New book provides workarounds for challenges that affect Aspergians**

CELIA MILNE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Misfits, geeks, loners and people with Asperger's — take heart.

John Elder Robison is here to help you chart your own path.

His new book Be different: Adventures Of a Free-range Aspergian (Doubleday Canada) echoes his journey through a world in which he's always been different.

Robison is a person living with Asperger's, a disorder along the autism spectrum, which means he has non-standard wiring in the brain. He wants to give a message of hope and concrete advice to younger people who have trouble socially.

"When you are growing up and struggling to find friends and fit in, the future can seem very dark indeed. Yet people like me tend to do better as we get older and it's important for us to stand as inspirational role models for younger people," he tells Metro.

Through hard work, patience and diligence, he has developed "workarounds" for challenges that affect people like him. He studies ordinary people and learns to imitate their behaviour. He calls them nypicals, a short form of neurotypical, which is essentially any human who doesn't live in the autism spectrum.

**"When you are growing up and struggling to find friends and fit in, the future can seem very dark indeed."**
JOHN ELDER ROBISON

Robison is the author of the bestselling memoir Look Me In the Eye, and his brother Augusten Burroughs wrote about their dysfunctional childhood in Running With Scissors.

Robison was recently in Toronto promoting Be Different.

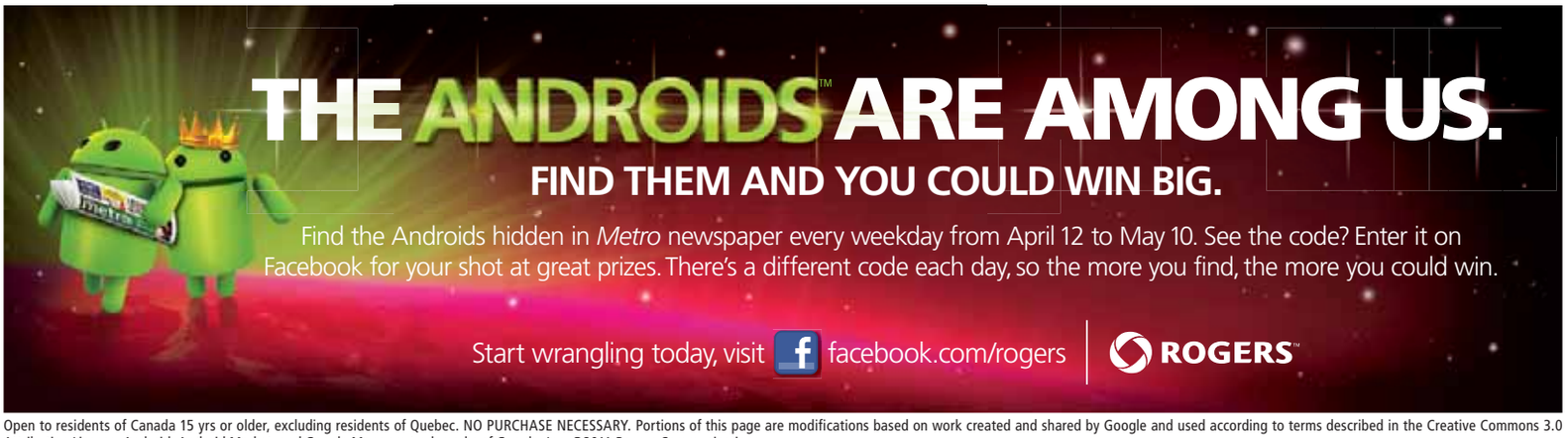
"Simply making myself aware of others has remarkably improved my social life," he writes. "People accept me much faster now that I ignore them less. This process is a secret of my success, and that helped turn me from a self-centered loner into a pleasant eccentric with a number of friends."

### Asperger's

**Asperger's, and what it is at a glance.**

- **Aspergians are very focused on what interests them** It took Robison ages to realize that, in casual conversation, most people don't want to hear about the 66,000-horsepower diesel engines in ocean-going containerships.
- **The Asperger's diagnosis is relatively new for the medical community** When Robison was a child, there was no diagnosis so he just thought he was a loner. He wasn't diagnosed until age 40.

● CELIA MILNE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# Regrowing brain tissue

## Brain bypass surgery helping restore lost brain tissue, new study finds

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Dr. Michael Tymianski is part of a team of neurosurgeons who have been able to initiate the regrowth of brain tissue.

Surgical treatment aimed at preventing the onset of strokes in high-risk patients has led to an unexpected outcome: helping to restore lost brain tissue, according to new Canadian research.

Neurosurgeons at the Krembil Neuroscience Centre at Toronto Western Hospital have been able to initiate the regrowth of lost brain tissue through brain bypass surgery.

The procedure is similar in concept to heart bypass surgery but is quite rare and performed at very select and few centres in North America, said study co-author Dr. Michael Tymianski, director of the neurovascular therapeutics program at the University Health Network.

"The purpose of the surgery is to bypass an area of the brain vasculature, the brain blood vessels, that's blocked or narrow," said Tymianski, who is also a senior scientist at the Toronto Western Research Institute.

"It's an operation aimed at improving blood flow to an area where the native blood vessels are diseased, but it's actually a very uncommon operation."

The study, which involved 29 patients, was published online Thursday in the journal Stroke.

Operations were performed on patients who had diseases of their brain arteries which reduced blood flow through those arteries to the point where they were deemed to be at very high risk of suffering either a brain hemorrhage or stroke, Tymianski said last week.

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# Beach banking

ISTOCK

▶ When it comes to timeshares, buy out of love, not because you want to make bucks off a future sale.

## ON MONEY

ALISON GRIFFITHS
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

Timeshares can be great vacation option – but don't expect to make money on the sale.

Spring is for love, rebirth, delightful bulbs blooming, dogs shedding and probably more fitness resolutions than are ever made in the New Year. It is also the season for timeshare regret. Over 77 percent of timeshares are purchased between December and March. Come spring the second guessing begins.

Judy was one of the 77 per cent. "I bought a time share in Florida three years ago and now realize that with all the cheap inclusive packages being offered I probably jumped too fast without doing my homework. I am shelling out about $750 year for maintenance/fees. Should I try to sell it or hang on hoping home prices will go up eventually and sell later? I was a person who never took time for a vacation. At least now I do get away a couple of weeks and look forward to it."

First of all, about those cheap all-inclusives. On a family trip to the Mexican Riviera a few years ago I snagged a great bargain at a 5 Star resort advertised for $1050 a week per person. By the time we added in taxes, tips, a couple of facials and massages, an upgrade to an ocean view room, better wine and a sightseeing tour the real cost doubled. The economics of timeshares are like the economics of most purchases from clothes to cars. Buy because you like it, but don't expect to make a profit on any future sale.

On my television show, Maxed Out, I worked with a couple who bought a timeshare in Florida during a trip to Disney World and a few too many margaritas. After getting into financial trouble they eventually unloaded it, for 35 cents on the dollar. In their case, however, the maintenance, fees and return airfare had strained their resources to the point where they couldn't even use their weeks.

Judy is different. Judy is exactly the kind of person who should buy a timeshare. It forces her to take a holiday, she enjoys it and it sounds like she can afford it. Don't mess with a good thing Judy.

### Vacation nation

**Largest number of timeshares worldwide**

- Florida – 22.7%
- South Caroline – 7.8%
- California – 7.5%

**timeshareconsumerguide.org**

## Fun and Frugal

LESLEY SCORGIE
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

# TAME THE CREDIT LINE

Credit lines are masked as good debt because they offer seductively low rates. But, unless they're used to purchase assets that are expected to grow (education, investments, and businesses), they're not!

Because they're easy to qualify for and access, they encourage 'incrementalism', layering on more, which translates into bad debt, a deal you can't afford. There's no pressure from the bank to pay off the principal; simply cover the interest. You can even borrow back everything you pay towards it.

You know you're abusing your credit line if; you can justify busting your budget for unplanned purchases like a new TV because you've got a low rate; if your bottom line isn't growing, but your credit line balance is; if your credit card is racked up each month because of overspending and you pay it off with a credit line rather than cash; if you find yourself unable to stop the $5,000 home renovation in the bathroom, and it creeps into new floors, cupboards and sparkling state-of-the-art appliances for the kitchen; or if you're expediting the purchase timeframe on major items like a car.

A low rate credit line doesn't solve a systemic overspending problem, it facilitates it.

Credit lines should only be used for good debt; to invest in stable assets. It's counterproductive to borrow back what you pay in principle.

Tame your credit line. Change your repayment plan so that the available credit reduces by the same amount as your payment; in essence turning it into a traditional loan.

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# FROM AUSTRALIA WITH LOVE: A GLOBETROTTING ROMANCE

**Names: Ash, 26, and Brett, 28**

**Hometowns: Pickering and Hamilton, Ont.**

**Together since: 2008**

## Their story:

▶ Ash and Brett are Canadians who have now lived in three different countries together.

When I (Ash) decided to move to Australia for a year in 2008, my family worried that I would fall in love with an Aussie surfer dude and never return to Canada.

They were half right: Brett and I crossed paths while living in the same apartment complex on the beautiful Sunshine Coast, Down Under. I knew immediately he was the one for me: We were both training to become teachers, our pets had the same names, and we were born exactly a week apart. Better yet, he was Canadian!

In the past two and a half years, Brett and I have lived in three different countries together, and I imagine that list will only grow longer.

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## Smug Marrieds

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## OPPOSITES DO ATTRACT

**Do opposites really attract? And if so, does that add to chemistry in a relationship?**

**Derek says...**

I find it curious that scientific principles are often used as clichés for matters of the heart. And while I'm not sure how physics relates to love connections, it wasn't until I met Angela that I first believed in love at first sight.

**Angela says...**

Opposites? Yeah, it's a cliché — but one that I believe firmly in. To me, it keeps things interesting.

Derek is always introducing me to things I'd never consider, and I like to think I do the same for him. For instance, I would have never watched the Battlestar Galactica series had it not been for him, and I like to think he'd never gain an appreciation for America's Next Top Model without my tutelage.

Having different interests keeps our individuality intact and offers interesting things to talk about after a long day at work — even after more than a decade together.

# Let them eat cake!

**Kate and Will have opted for two wedding cakes One of them is sentimental while the other is far more traditional**

CARLO MENDOZA CAKE BY ROXYCAKES

It's fitting that a future king and queen would have two wedding cakes — a chocolate biscuit cake (William's childhood favourite) and a traditional fruitcake (Kate's pick).

Details of the royal couple's cake have been revealed by Leicestershire baker, Fiona Carins. There will be tiers, and white and cream shades. Sugar flowers (all of which have special meaning to the pair) will be incorporated.

895153

To create a regal wedding cake of your own, try a three-tiered cake with a simple posy at the top surrounded by pressed florals. It's beautiful and won't break the bank.

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'Tis the NHL playoff season — a time of year more festive than the holiday season, perhaps?

To bon vivants like myself, the thrilling weeks become even more fun when sports bars actually serve good food.

Topping my list of restaurants playing the games is Red Card, a European, 110-seater where an Italian-inspired menu lives in its own category — far above the average pub's.

An extremely appropriate and score of a meal choice is the Hat-Trick Pizza ($17) — served at lunch and dinner — of which $2 from each sale are donated to the Canucks Autism Network.

The new world pizza — spread with sweet San Marzano tomato sauce atop a thin, supple crust — is modestly sprinkled with sinful protein: mozzarella, bacon, sopressata, and very mild sausage. A few charred crust bubbles add a satisfying crunch.

More satisfying than that crunch? A Stanley Cup win for the Canucks, leading to a recreation of the magical atmosphere our Olympic city felt just more than a year ago.

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**Rating: 4 out of 5**

# Canucks, Hawks at odds on Torres hit

The Canucks maintained there was nothing wrong with the hit by Raffi Torres that sent Blackhawks defender Brent Seabrook sprawling to the ice in Game 3 of their first-round series against Chicago.

The NHL agreed and declined to suspend the Vancouver forward yesterday.

But that didn't quell the war of words between the teams during off-day gatherings at the United Center on the eve of Game 4.

Torres received a two-minute minor Sunday after after a hit to the head of the Hawks defenceman in Vancouver's 3-2 victory in Game 3.

"I thought it was a clean hit," Canuck Mason Raymond said. "It's a physical game out there ... I'm glad to see it wasn't a suspension."

The Blackhawks, meanwhile, were vocal in their disagreement with what they felt was light punishment.

"I think he kept his elbow in, but he hit the head first," Seabrook said following a team meeting. "That was the only thing I felt ... Whether or not he was targeting it, the head was hit first."

Torres was playing the first game back after a four-game suspension for a high hit on Edmonton's Jordan Eberle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**"This hit meets none of the criteria that would subject Torres to supplemental discipline."**

A STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE NHL EXPLAINING THE TORRES DECISION

NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Destined to sweep?

**Canucks Game Day**

**SCOTT RINTOUL**

**If you believe in history repeating itself, take note of the following statistical anomaly.**

Not only would a win tonight give the Canucks the second sweep in the club's history, it would also put Vancouver in fairly exclusive company. Only five previous Presidents' Trophy winners have ousted the defending Stanley Cup champion the following post-season, and each went on to win the Cup that spring. Interestingly enough, the St. Louis Blues were both the last team swept by the Canucks (2009) and the last team to sweep the Blackhawks (1993).

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Blue-line = red light**

In holding the Hawks to five goals in three games, Vancouver's back end has been excelling at its primary task. What's more, the Canucks defence has provided offence to the tune of a combined seven points thus far in the series. Only two of the Canucks' nine goals have not involved a defenceman.

JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

**Edge-ucation**

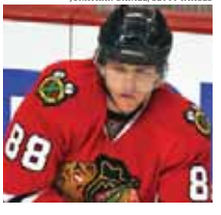
Raffi Torres escaped suspension for his controversial hit on Chicago's Brent Seabrook, but he'll need to play on the right side of the edge in Game 4. Torres played just over nine minutes, but took two penalties in the Canucks' most recent victory. The Blackhawks' power play capitalized on half of those occasions.

NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Euro-trashed**

The seven European skaters on the Canucks roster have been too much for the Hawks to handle to this point. Europeans have scored eight straight goals for the Canucks in this series, as Chris Higgins is the only North American to tally for Vancouver through three games.

JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES



**Kane not able**

Patrick Kane had been a Canuck killer in post-seasons past, but he's struggled to find the scoresheet this time around. Kane racked up 16 points including nine goals in twelve previous playoff games versus Vancouver. This year, he has just two assists and has yet to score in the series.

4 sports

**Quoted**

**"We didn't compete in the first 30 minutes of the game."**

MONTREAL CANADIENS COACH JACQUES MARTIN ON HIS TEAM'S PERFORMANCE IN A 4-2 LOSS TO THE BRUINS LAST NIGHT. BOSTON NOW TRAILS MONTREAL 2-1 IN THE EASTERN CONFERENCE QUARTER-FINAL SERIES.

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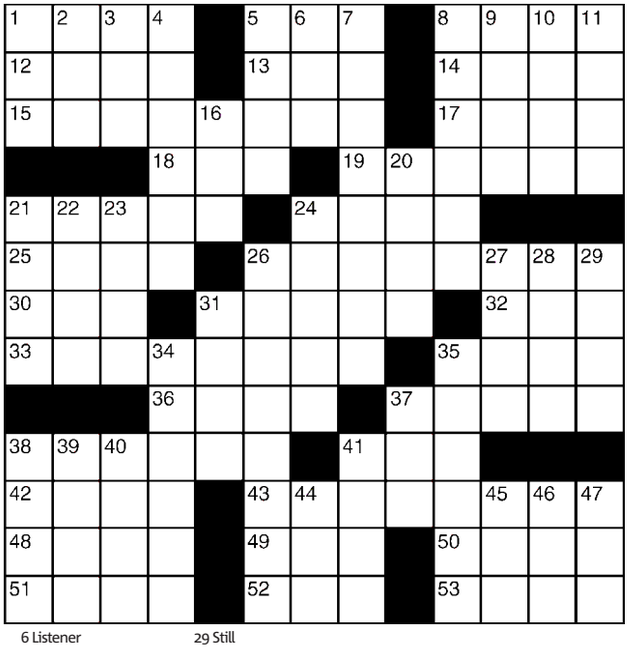
## Crossword



**Across**

1 Hair salon request
5 Witness
8 Poker variety
12 Vicinity
13 Skillet
14 Walking stick
15 Argument concluder
17 Discourteous
18 — for tat
19 Speech-maker
21 Poe's bird
24 Attract
25 Winged
26 Jet-setter's way of life
30 Error
31 Vaults
32 St. leader
33 Reincarnationist's belief
35 Anger
36 Nephew of Donald Duck
37 Baseball's "Hammerin' Hank"
38 Attribute
41 Remnant
42 Phobia
43 Very strong, as a stomach
48 Tenant's payment
49 Mentalist's claim
50 Car
51 Wild revelry
52 Firmament
53 Allows

**Down**

1 Chum
2 Mound stat
3 In medias —
4 Count
5 Location
6 Listener
7 Check beneficiary
8 Illegible writing
9 Lacking slack
10 Loosen
11 Antelope's playmate
16 Triumph
20 "Darn it!"
21 Grate
22 Others (Lat.)
23 Moving vehicles
24 Inane
26 Opaque-glazed earthenware pieces
27 Culture medium
28 "Forget it!"
29 Still
31 Hit hard
34 Minimum age of a U.S. senator
35 Arranged like spokes
37 Pismire
38 Roundish coiffure
39 Crystal gazer
40 Crooned
41 Catch sight of
44 Inquire
45 Regret
46 Mel of baseball

▶ Yesterday's answer

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | K | E | | H | E | M | A | N | | S | T | Y |
| L | O | G | | A | N | I | L | E | | I | R | E |
| F | I | G | H | T | C | L | U | B | | G | U | N |
| | | | O | R | O | | M | U | S | H | E | S |
| F | A | T | T | E | D | | S | L | O | T | | |
| O | B | I | | D | E | B | | A | R | R | A | S |
| R | U | G | S | | D | I | M | | T | E | L | L |
| E | T | H | O | S | | P | A | C | | A | T | A |
| | | T | U | T | U | | R | A | N | D | O | M |
| M | I | R | R | O | R | | C | S | A | | | |
| E | D | O | | L | I | G | H | T | Y | E | A | R |
| A | L | P | | E | A | S | E | L | | R | I | P |
| T | E | E | | S | H | A | D | E | | A | R | M |

## Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| 5 | | 2 | | | 1 | | 7 | |
| | 4 | | | 6 | | 9 | | |
| 4 | | | | 8 | | | 5 | |
| | 3 | | | | | | 1 | |
| | 7 | | | 4 | | | | 3 |
| | | 4 | | 2 | | | 8 | |
| | 2 | | 4 | | | 5 | | 6 |
| 6 | 1 | 9 | | | | | | |

## How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

## Send a KISS

**You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.**

*Moezy Habibi, I'm sorry for everything I have done and I love you lots <3 please forgive me and love me again xoxo*
*From* **S.B.**

*Joseph, this is more than a crush, there is no doubt that this is true love. I wrote you this poem... There I saw you glistening in the sun Hoping one day we will become one Your invading voice lacing through my head I love you boy- hopefully one day you will see that I fantasize having my fingers running through your silky mane Waiting to find out if you love me is driving me literally insane my empty arms reach out for you Joseph, if you read this, I hope you won't find it wierd....I love you Joseph.....I just wish I could say it to your face.*
*From* **ANONYMOUS GIRL FROM SKOOL**

## Today's horoscope

*For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca*

**♈ Aries** March 21-April 20 Someone will change their plans today and you won't be too happy about it.
**♉ Taurus** April 21-May 21 If you want a straight answer to you will likely be disappointed.
**♊ Gemini** May 22-June 21 Make sure you keep track of where your money is going today.
**♋ Cancer** June 22-July 22 Some people will be vocal in their opposition to your plans today but don't let that stop you.
**♌ Leo** July 23-Aug.23 Don't push yourself harder than you have to just to make yourself look good.
**♍ Virgo** Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You may have doubts about the path you are on but you also have the courage to keep at it.
**♎ Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If someone in a position of authority is critical of your work you must not let it get to you.
**♏ Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 See the amusing side in what happens today.
**♐ Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Don't ignore your instincts if something feels off.
**♑ Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Remind the doubters that, as far as you are concerned, nothing in life is impossible.
**♒ Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Why the negative attitude? Whatever the reason you must snap out of it
**♓ Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. Don't be afraid to ask friends and family for financial help if you need it. **SALLY BROMPTON**

## Caption contest

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